

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A system comprising:  
a broadband access server responsive to a remote digital subscriber line (DSL)  
customer premises equipment device; and  
a communication path to provide for data communications with the broadband  
access server;  
wherein the broadband access server receives a data packet that includes a  
device identifier corresponding to the DSL CPE device.
2. The system of claim 1, wherein the device identifier includes a plurality of  
data fields.
3. The system of claim 2, wherein the plurality of data fields includes a device  
firmware field, a chipset field, and chipset code field.
4. The system of claim 3, wherein the plurality of fields identify a particular  
type of CPE equipment.
5. The system of claim 1, wherein the broadband access server receives a  
plurality of device identifiers associated with a plurality of different DSL CPE devices  
within a network.
6. The system of claim 1, wherein the communication path is a point to point  
over Ethernet communication path.
7. The system of claim 1, wherein the broadband access server is coupled to a  
database and wherein the device identifier is stored in the database.
8. The system of claim 1, wherein the data packet is a host-uniq tag portion of  
a point to point over Ethernet active discovery packet.

9. The system of claim 8, wherein the discovery packet is an initiation packet communicated from the DSL CPE to the broadband access server during a discovery stage process.

10. A communication system comprising:

a host server having access to a remote digital subscriber line (DSL) customer premises equipment (CPE) device, the host server receiving a device identifier associated with the DSL CPE device; and

a customer service terminal for use in connection with a communications network coupled to the host server, the customer service terminal receiving the device identifier and displaying the device identifier to a user of the customer service terminal.

11. The communications system of claim 10, wherein the device identifier includes a firmware identifier and a chipset identifier associated with the DSL CPE device.

12. The communications system of claim 10, further comprising an operations station, the operations station receiving and storing the device identifier, the operations station coupled to a report generation element to display a report that includes the device identifier.

13. The communications system of claim 12, wherein the report includes a plurality of device identifiers associated with a plurality of DSL CPE devices within the communications network.

14. The communications system of claim 10, wherein the host server is a broadband remote access server coupled to the customer service terminal via an intermediate computer network.

15. The communications system of claim 10, wherein the device identifier is communicated as part of a host-uniq tag message in accordance with a discovery phase of a point-to-point over Ethernet initiation procedure.

16. The communications system of claim 15, wherein the host-uniq tag is a 24 bit binary number.

17. The communications system of claim 10, wherein the device identifier includes a firmware identifier, a chipset identifier, and a chipset firmware identifier.